

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 8, as follows:

An interface card concentrator 205 manages the IFCs by performing packet processing on inbound and outbound data packets communicated via IFCs 206. The interface card concentrator 205 may perform additional functions related to communicating data packets to and from IFCs 206, including, for example, storing the data packets in memory 212. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, the interface card concentrator 205 includes two packet processing ASICs 210 that process data received through IFCs 206 and assemble outbound packets for sending through IFCs 206, as described more fully below. Each packet processing ASIC 210 can process inbound and outbound data for up to four IFCs 206. In connection with assembling outbound packets, each packet processing ASIC 210 reads data from memory 212. Memory 212 can be implemented using, for example, a conventional SDRAM device.